9/17/68

Dear Russ,

Your interesting letter of 9/11 and enclosures are helpful. The story on the bike boys is inconsistent with what I was looking for, though consistent with the little information I had on them. I think it pretty well eliminates what I had been told, but not completely. That Duarte had moved to Hollywood, in that version of the AP story you sent, is the first I'd heard of his move from Miami and permits correction of what would have been a small error. Strange, and I've several versions of that AP story. Your comment about his cracks "sounding familiar" is much more right than you can imagine. His "Bringuier" is one Dr. Fernando Penabez, editor of something called "Insight On The News". I am very interested in both. The story is an almost exact parallel with the New Orleans cover for Oswald. The WBKB release on Ray as decoy also fits well, for that is what I said from the beginning. I'll try and get more from them on that.

The transcripts interest me more than anything else, for they help many things fit in place and confirm suspicions I've had for a while. I suppose it just isn't possible for anyone without the most intimate knowledge of the fact to understand exactly what Mark is up to, but it may be ruinous to all of us. His enormous ego is damaged by the fact that he has been able to bring nothing of any significance to light by his own work. He feels that he owns the field, that those of us who have done was he was incapable of are interlopers he tolerates, etc. His new book is so unbelievably dishonest, even those working in the field cannot believe it. I will, when we meet again, if you'd like, give you the details. I have written a short book on it for a number of reasons, one of which is that in order to survive him, it may be necessary to expose him. Minor example: he protests he had no idea why Grove wouldn't do his book when he delivered it. He hadn't delivered it by scheduled publication date then presented an unpublishable book not according to specifications. I knew this from his former agent. Another kind of example, the frequent plagiarisms. The one he has on Klein's Sporting Goods the FBI turning them off so they wouldn't even talk to the Secret Service has a non-existing source cited in a spurious footnote. Plain manufacture. The real source is WHITE-WASH II, which has become the most frequent source among the potboilers.

Well, all that bit you may remember about "his" prediction of the RFK assassination is mine and he stole it knowingly, pretending otherwise. I spoke to the one guy, not two, he refers to, who had not been sent to Garrison by RFK but was in New Orleans on other business and looked me up for other reasons. I pumped him for several hours to get that from him, then took him to Garrison. The full story is in COUP D'ETAT, to which I may add some of these transcripts because there is little liklihood I'll ever publish the Mark book. Well, when Mark had his new book coming out he asked a station in DC for which I had agreed to do a half-dozen three-hour shows for time and they asked me to share one of these with him. I agreed and postponed it for the appearance of the book, Imagine my surprise when he starts using my lines on my show. I clobbered him, to his face, told the real story in somewhat abbreviated form, in the forlorn hope it would silence him on the subject and some of the Kennedy-people we were trying to reach would not be terrified that anything they said would immediately be on the air and they endangered by it. The next night the station did a repeat. They have a very small audience and I never dreamed they'd cover or let Mark cover the same material. With much work to to do I didn't travel the 100 miles it would have required, plus 6-7 hours, instead making a brief appearance by phone. Imagine my surprise when, having heard the entire story, truthfully, with dates and other details, the night before, the incompetent moderator lets Lane air it as his. Here is where Anderson picked it up. From there Mark was off accross the country, with Holt paying the bill and making the arrangements, and with him plugging his book that is loaded with my stuff with my unpublished stuff he knew he was stealing! Fortunately, I have the Washington TV thing on tape, a live tape, not an air tape, including our off-the-air exchanged.

These transcripts and that make another irrefutable proof of dishonesty, for none of it can be accidental. He is really a very sick and a very corrupt man. Sickness or corruption, either alone, cannot begin to account for what he does.

There is that little extra boost in these shows (can you get me any other, for example, the Kup one?), that begins to make sense out of it. He is fond of pretending that he knows everything Garrison does, has everything in Garrison's files. This may sell his books, but it can also ruin Garrison in court. Why, indeed, should FBI agents be in the control room when he is broadcasting when he is the major one on our side who has brought nothing new to light? Why should they not content themselves with taping him off the air? The obvious reason to me is to have witnesses. Each of these agents can at some later date take the stand and swear not that he heard a voice over the airwaves but was present and saw and heard Mark say these things. The same is true of Sahl.

It is all very bad and hard to do anything about. But do, please, keep me posted, for it may become necessary to try and do something.

I wish I could help with your novel by suggesting an agent. Mine I think is a very nice guy, but he works in his own way, which is not helpful for a man with controversial material. For example, because he knew the Delill vice-president very well and had always done handshake business with him, he got no contract on Oswald in New Orleans - and I got no $30,000 "advance". They were subject to pressures, bowed to them, and goodby vice president! He is so busy on the commercial stuff that he can sell without trouble he does little with anything else. Pretty much the same is true of publishers, but you are groundflooring, and might find a different reception. My hunch would be Grove, where I cannot help you. Another might be right there in Chicago. Quadrangle might be interested. They have a reputation I can not confirm for "courage". Mel Brisk is President, Ivan Dee is managing editor. Perhaps either can recommend the kind of agent who could do best with the subject matter.

Sounds like the Feebees in their excesses have helped you. Crazy business. Glad it worked out that way, though. Better for you!

Whatever you can send on Malcolm X I do urgently need, for I can connect his with the other assassinations only by reasoning that may not persuade most people. Would you like credit or anonymity for anything I might use?

Vallee is but one of several such threats in your area. The other involved Abraham Bolden. Is there any sign of National States Rights Party activity?

If Gregory and Mark are close friends, I suppose it is a waste of time to make any effort in that direction. I think, however, that some of these people had better learn what they are against, instead of just assuming it, and had better do something about getting fact to the people, instead of demanding acceptance of their beliefs on faith in their understanding alone. Besides, people ought have fact and ought not be expected to take things on faith when it isn't necessary. Most people will not believe -and should not -blind assertions.

I'll pass on your stories of film damage during the convention to friends in the foreign press who may be able to use it.

Does the file on you indicate you were the prime subject of the espionage or that this was a by-product of other spying?

I've got to get to other work. Many thanks for the valuable information and the interesting letter. Anything else you can send will be appreciated. Good luck, and I'm glad you're out of court and jail!

By the way, if you cannot do anything else about getting an agent, why

not phone Bob Cromie, who is with both Book World and the ChiTrib and ask him if he can recommend an agent would would be interested in the subject? He might very well know one. Unless explaining how you know me might lead to a complication for you, you might say it is at my suggestion. He knows me. He also knows the field as few do. If you saw the most recent Book World, you know he was quite capable of punning Allen Drury, though he fell short of using the one apt word, "scavenging".

And if you get an agent, I'd be interested. I haven't used mine since he left me entirely unprotected with both Bell and Canyon, each of which was its own kind of disaster.

Have you ever heard where Paul went?

Best Regards,